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Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1

Dear FCC,

I moved to San Francisco from Phoenix. Looking around there was several internet providers to choose from. In Phoenix I had used Cox for my provider. The San Francisco providers had different reliabilities as well as different prices. I chose Sonic because their reliability reputation was high and their excellent service has proved the rating correct. Their prices were among the very best.

Internet is something I use every day, I search for shoes of the right size, chat with my UK sister about my 95 year old mother, search for wedding dresses for my daughter. I interact with my doctor and bank through the internet. If internet prices increase then something else will have to be reduced in my budget.

"But AT&T and their trade association, USTelecom, have recently petitioned the FCC to take away access to critical unbundled network elements. These unbundled elements are critical last-mile copper and inter-city backhaul; the very technology that allowed Sonic to grow, expand fiber deployment, backhaul those deployments, and compete. Without access to this infrastructure, Sonic is at risk of losing access to a huge portion of their customer base, leading to potentially higher rates, less fiber deployment, and even less options for consumers."

The networks hardware supported by AT&T and USTelecom are old and need replacing, which is being done by companies such as Sonic through their investment.

It is not as if AT&T and USTelecom make no money from their investment in unbundled facilities, they want to make more money. Sonic is providing consumer competition choice that helps to keep costs down for ordinary household internet users. Behemoth companies reduce the competition that keeps developments in new technology being applied and the user with increasing costs.

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